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# Text of Statements by Publisher and the Kennedys

Following are the texts of a statement issued yesterday by Cass Canfield, chairman of the executive committee of Harper & Row, Publishers, Inc., and of a statement by the Kennedy family in the dispute over the book, "The Death of a President":

## Canfield's Statement

My experience in connection with "The Death of a President" has been the most trying and distressing one in a 40-year publishing career, and Ewan Thomas, the editor of the book at Harper & Row, shares my distress. We take great pride in being the publishers of President Kennedy's great book, "Profiles in Courage," and of books by Senator Robert F. Kennedy. When the Kennedy family asked us to publish the Manchester book and we agreed to do so, they were asking us to assume the responsibilities of a publisher. It is a function we have exercised honorably and professionally over nearly 150 years.

I want to stress how very badly I feel that Mrs. Kennedy, for whom I have such deep regard and respect, is so disturbed about the book. The principals involved in this

dispute are all people for whom I have deep regard and admiration. Mr. Manchester's book itself is a moving, sincere and outstanding piece of writing. He has been subjected to many repeated pressures for many months. He was asked to prepare for publication an accurate account of the events of the assassination and he was assured that his role as an author would be respected.

Understandably, the members of the Kennedy family were unwilling to read the manuscript themselves and hence they designated representatives to do this for them. Had they read it themselves, the present situation might have been avoided.

Harper & Row was not motivated by profit when it undertook the publication of this book. On the contrary, all Harper profits will go to the Kennedy Library except for a small return to Harper's on our first printing. In no event will this limit be exceeded. Mr. Manchester is also making substantial contributions to the library from his earnings on the book. Incidentally Harper & Row's advance to him was \$40,000

ously reported by the press.

In the interest of historical accuracy and of the people's right to know the true facts of the awesome tragedy—the right to know which led the Kennedy family to request Mr. Manchester to write his book and us to publish it—we join with him in defending the book's right to live, and not the \$875,000 errone-

## Kennedy Family's Statement

No amount of rhetoric about "historical accuracy" or the public's "right to know" can alter the nature of this controversy—whether Mr. Manchester and the publishers broke the written agreement, from which breach enormous profits will apparently flow.

The question is not the book's "right to live"—no one has denied that right—the question is the right of Mrs. Kennedy and her children to live with a minimum of privacy and dignity, free from the publication of intimate details of their lives at a time of great sorrow—details which bear no conceivable relation to history.

Although neither Senator

Kennedy nor Mrs. Kennedy has read the Manchester manuscript in its entirety—authorized representatives having done so—both Manchester and the publishers knew that Mrs. Kennedy was well aware of the personal passages to which she objected. Indeed, Mrs. Kennedy spoke directly to Manchester on at least one occasion, outlining her objections to those parts of the manuscript which she felt unnecessarily invaded her privacy and that of her children. And although he agreed to delete them from the published version, neither Manchester nor Harper & Row nor Look magazine has done so, or have they even, in the period of this dispute, permitted Mrs. Kennedy or her representatives access to the manuscript. And this despite repeated assurance throughout the entire period by Harper & Row that the contract would be honored. Since representatives of Harper & Row participated in making the agreement this law suit is based on, it is surprising that Mr. Canfield's statement does not mention it."